

DENIES KISSING MRS. STOKES

"Charming Woman," Says
Schroter, on Stand as
Co-respondent.

NEW YORK, April 15.—The Stokes divorce trial before Supreme Court Justice Finch yesterday projected George Austin Schroter, mining engineer, traveller, most debonaire of the Stokes co-respondents.

DIDN'T HUG HER, HE SAYS. Deliberately, at times sardonically, Schroter drew out the story of intimacy told previously by the millionaire's army of eavesdropping domestics. He did not kiss or hug Mrs. Stokes, although he readily admitted calling her "carrots"—not a term of endearment, he explained, but a description of her profusion of spun-red hair.

Almost paternally Schroter described his acquaintance with Mrs. Stokes. He is the second of the co-respondents to deny Mr. Stokes' charges. Contrasted with Wallace, the first, small, drab, bald, Schroter is tall, lissome, well dressed, his thatch of graying hair curled in poetic fashion. While Wallace seemed surly, determined, Schroter appeared to enjoy his experience on the stand.

MRS. STOKES TO TESTIFY. His appearance followed the announcement that Mrs. Mabel Mattheson, third of the witnesses to the Wallace incident, was too ill to testify. Martin W. Littleton, Mrs. Stokes' lawyer, has decided to put his client on the stand after all the adverse testimony is in, and the various co-respondents have placed denials upon the record—a process that probably will take most of next week.

Cross-examination yesterday of the mining engineer elicited from him many compliments to the beauty and charm of Mrs. Stokes. He had first known her in Denver when she was, to use his own phrase, "in short skirts." He saw her playing with other children on the streets. He singled her out of the crowd because of her red hair.

Mrs. Stokes, in characteristic pose of gloved hand against tiny chin, smiled frequently as the witness recalled his childhood. She chuckled at his reference to her red hair of yore, now straying from her snug-fitting brown velvet hat.

"ALL CALLED HER 'CARROTS'." Schroter told, under direct examination, of his first meeting with Mrs. Stokes in 1908. He paid scant attention to her at the time.

"Did you ever call her 'Carrots'?" asked Herbert Smyth, for Mr. Stokes.

"Yes, pretty."

"Very charming woman."

"Undoubtedly."

"Are you more or less susceptible to a pretty face?"

"No—possibly her red hair."

"Who's the red-haired girl, I asked. 'Helen Elwood,' they told me. 'Did her beauty attract you?'"

"I don't know what impression she made on me."

"Was she austere?"

"No—she paused, smiled, and then responded: 'If you want my opinion of her I'll be glad to give it to you. Mr. Smyth indicated his eagerness to listen."

"I think she's a very charming woman."

"Think she's pretty?"

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How Witnesses in Two Divorce Cases Say They Got Their Evidence

MRS. FIFI POTTER STILLMAN.



JAMES A. STILLMAN.

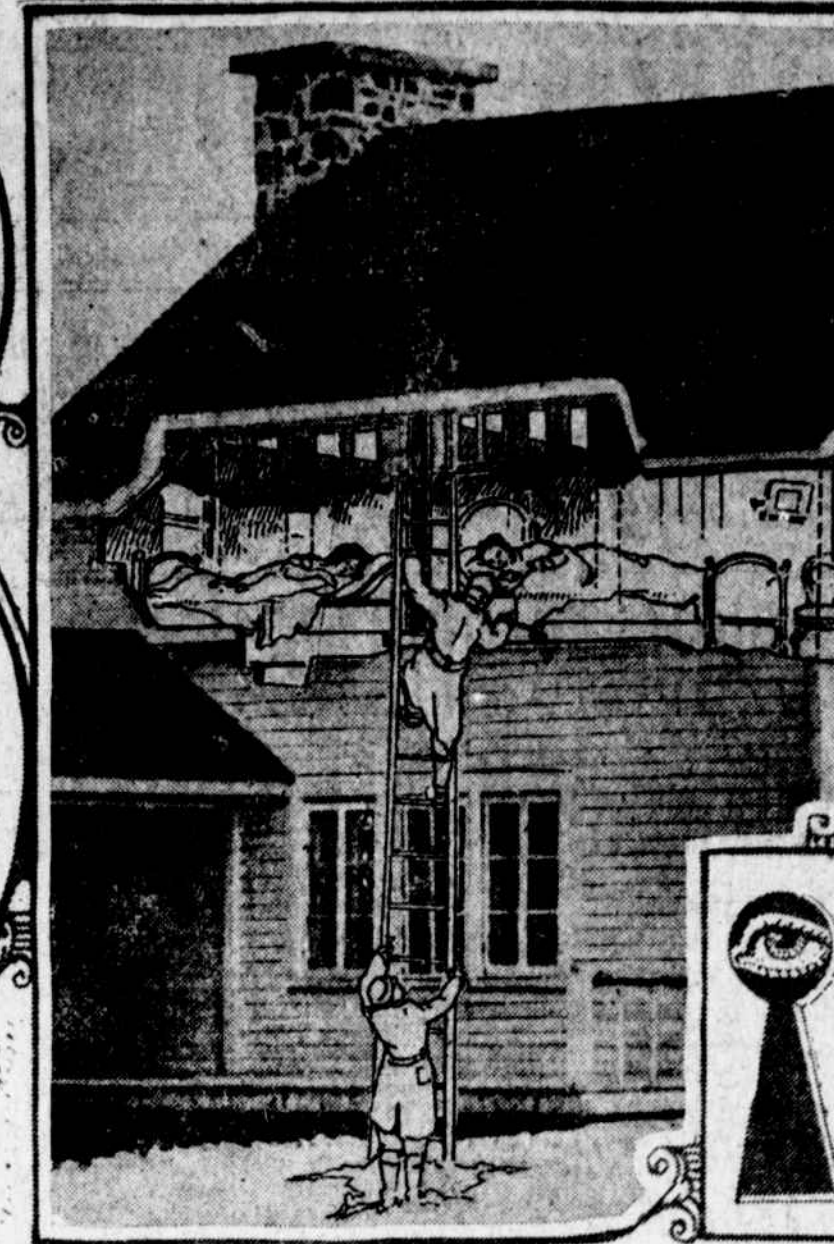


DIAGRAM BASED ON TESTIMONY OF STILLMAN'S WITNESSES.



DIAGRAM BASED ON STORIES OF STOKES' WITNESSES.



MRS. HELEN ELWOOD STOKES.

Key-Hole Evidence to Decide Divorce Cases Of Two Millionaires

By MARGARY REX.

NEW YORK, April 15.—Would you look through a keyhole. IF—You could, in this way, gain information that would affect your future happiness? Or destroy it?

IF—You happened to be merely the victim of your own idle curiosity, and would like to find out something about your neighbors?

IF—You wanted to get evidence against your wife or husband?

IF—You were a servant or employee, and your master offered you good round sums of money to see something and tell it in court later?

Keyhole and window evidence figured to a great extent in two current divorce suits, that of James A. Stillman against his wife, Mrs. Fifi Potter Stillman, and that of W. E. D. Stokes against Mrs. Helen Elwood Stokes.

James A. Stillman offers as part of his accusations against the good name of his wife and the paternity of baby Guy Stillman testimony of witnesses who claim to have climbed ladders and looked through keyholes.

W. E. D. Stokes' contributions to his own cause are similar. Verily, man STOOOPS to conquer.

We seem to remember that the allegedly nobler sex inveigh against the petty tricks of women, frail creatures, who, for good reasons or none at all, spy, snoop and otherwise steal the fair reputations of their neighbors.

Nowadays men, in order to divorce themselves from their wives, do not hesitate to employ such ignoble expedients in "getting evidence."

TESTIMONY IN STILLMAN CASE. The "ladder and keyhole story" was to have been a strong card in the Stillman fight. A storekeeper of La Tuque told of looking through a keyhole into Mrs. Stillman's room—out of curiosity, at first he said. Then somehow he was moved to go on to look through the keyhole of Fred Beauvais, the guide named by Stillman as co-respondent.

Other witnesses told such remarkably similar stories of what they saw in this fashion that their reliability is questioned by the lawyers for the defense.

Beauvais' comment upon the testimony was that the witnesses could not possibly have been in a position to see what they claimed to have witnessed, from the vantage points as described.

In the Stokes case, the plaintiff has named as one of the co-respondents Edgar T. Wallace. Witnesses have given testimony as to what they saw by looking from a roof into the windows which were opened from the Wallace apartment.

The points in doubt and Supreme Court Justice Finch has sent his secretary, John O. Wingrave, to the apartments at 13 East Thirty-fifth street, where Mr. Wallace lived at the time of the spying, to determine whether or not from the place described he can see into the windows in question.

Most people, especially dwellers in this city where opposite windows often came close together, and where the vistas of two apartment dwellers came together upon a small court or airway, have not failed to glimpse casually, people in another apartment.

But most people, on the other hand, would look away, unless wilfully and maliciously curious as to the affairs of neighbors.

There is a certain type of unfortunate human being known as a "Peeping Tom," who looks through windows where women dwell. His object is to gaze and perhaps frighten. When caught he may be arrested and punished. He is mentally defective. Peepers are pitied because they are not normal human beings. When there is no excuse, mental trouble to cause such vagaries, the key hole or window watcher, whether working gratuitously or not, is despised.

COURTS ADMIT SUCH STORIES. Nevertheless the testimony of such creatures is admitted in our courts. In the Stillman case it has been claimed that to see anything at all from keyholes was impossible, and improbable through windows.

It remains to be seen what will be proved in the Stokes case, whether or not witnesses could actually see from the places mentioned, and if they did, what value the word of such watchers may have with a judge and jury.

Simple tests in psychology classes require students to watch one or two people who will come into the classroom, perform some act and then go out, upon which the onlookers are to describe accurately what happened. Few reports are alike and many go

ROADS FACING BOTH R.R. SIDES LABOR CRISIS CLAIM VICTORY

Organized Workers See Walkout Ahead When Present Agreements Run Out. Decision to Abrogate Wage Agreement Hailed as Favorable by Labor and Roads.

By MILDRED MORRIS.

International News Service.

There is tense anxiety in official labor circles today.

A railroad strike is foreseen as a result of the decision of the United States Railroad Labor Board abrogating the present national agreements held by the 1,500,000 railroad workers affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and directing negotiations to be carried between each individual railroad and its employees.

STRIKE IS FEARED. The attitude of the railroad companies makes a strike unavoidable, in the privately expressed opinion of labor leaders, and fear is expressed that the board's decision will bring to a head the war that has been raging more fiercely than ever between capital and labor, and that organized labor the greatest crisis in its history.

The air around the headquarters of the American Federation of Labor and the building of the International Union of Marine Engineers, Association, across the way, is filled with gloomy talk, and some leaders even declare the industrial situation in the United States parallel to the present one in England.

Conferences of railroad workers will be called, it is stated, and according to predictions will be given to each craft to take a strike vote to be used in event the "fundamentals" as laid down by the railroad labor board in its decision are rejected in negotiations with each individual road.

SEE EFFORT TO DESTROY. Roads like the Pennsylvania, which have been openly antagonistic to the unions, are expected by the labor leaders to reject the "fundamentals" which insure union recognition and the right to collective bargaining.

William H. Johnston, president of the International Association of Machinists and a member of the executive board of the Railway Employees of the American Federation, voiced the feeling of the labor officials here today when he declared:

"The pernicious influence of the Steel Trust is behind this movement to destroy the railroad unions as it is behind the movement to crush all of organized labor."

DOG ON TRIAL PRESENTS CHARACTER WITNESSES

CUMBERLAND, Md., April 15.—An unusual suit, calling for character witnesses for a dog, is on trial in the circuit court here.

It is that of Dorothy Rice, against mayor and city council for \$5,000 damages for injury in having been bitten on the street by the dog of Police Commissioner Hummelshime.

The defense will have witnesses to prove that the dog is quiet and inoffensive. It is charged that the child was bitten after it had gone up and put its arms around the dog's neck, frightening the animal.

WIFE OF DR. KARL MUCK DEAD AT HOME IN BERLIN

BERLIN, April 15.—Mme. Karl Muck, wife of the former director of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, is dead at her home here.

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NEXT SUNDAY, APRIL 17, Pennsylvania

System. See the great metropolitan with its varied places of interest. Leave Washington Saturday midnight, 12:45 A. M.—Adv.

CHICAGO, April 15.—Railways and railway employees each were claiming victory today in the decision handed down by the United States Railroad Labor Board late yesterday in which abrogation of existing national agreements regulating working conditions on American railroads on July 1 was ordered.

LABOR SEES FREEDOM. The railways asserted that the decision recognized the inequalities in the present agreement, which the roads all along have contended imposed a burden upon them. They called the decision a "substantial step toward relief of the present situation."

Union leaders contended that the decision was in their favor in that the labor board announced it will promulgate reasonable rules after July 1, which will include groups of workers not included in the present agreements. They were pleased also over that provision of the decision which permits the workers to choose their own representatives for conferences to be held with no hindrance in selecting officials of the national unions.

The decision of the board is that the present agreements shall not extend beyond July 1, but that in the interim the separate railroads and their employees shall confer and agree among themselves upon such rules as they can agree upon.

The board will be informed of the various agreements and disagreements resulting from these conferences and as soon as possible after July 1, will promulgate "such rules as it determines just and reasonable."

Whatever the new rules are, they will be effective as of July 1, 1921.

In promulgating its decision, the board reviewed the claims of the contending parties and found merit in the arguments of each side. Certain rules, the board declared, "are unduly burdensome to the carriers and should in justice be modified." Other rules, it was said, might well be modified in the interest of employees.

RATHER HAVE CAT THAN WIFE, HE SAYS

Frisco Man Loses Both, But Wins Permission to Visit Feline and Feed It.

SAN FRANCISCO, April 15.—When Helen La Haye won a divorce from E. B. La Haye, a professional musician, the only community property involved was Henry, a black tomcat, who had been a member of the La Haye household for nine years.

Mrs. La Haye wanted the cat, and for that very reason La Haye put up the legal fight of his life to obtain its custody.

Mrs. La Haye expressed great affection for the cat and La Haye declared that as between the companionship of Henry and that of his wife he preferred to worry through life without his spouse.

The judge ruled that Mrs. La Haye should have Henry and then he passed out a bit of comfort to La Haye. He decreed that although the cat must be delivered into the custody of Mrs. La Haye within twenty-four hours, La Haye should have the privilege of visiting it and feeding it bits of liver at all reasonable times.

The cat is of the ordinary back fence variety, without a pedigree.

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VIVIANI FAILS IN U.S. MISSION

Frenchman Has Practically
Lost Three Points He Came
Here to Gain.

This week's events in Washington led inevitably to the conclusion today that the mission of Rene Viviani, France's special envoy to the United States has been well nigh a complete failure.

VIVIANI'S THREE AIMS.

M. Viviani came to the United States ostensibly to "pay France's respects" to the new administration.

What he really came for was outlined in the series of private discussions which he held with officials of the new administration and influential members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

His mission as thus outlined embraced three objectives:

1. To persuade the United States, if possible, to enter the League of Nations.

2. To prevent the passage of the Knox resolution declaring an end to the state of war between the United States and Germany.

3. To obtain the support of the United States in forcing upon Germany the reparations settlement agreed upon by the allied premiers in Paris and London.

President Harding neatly disposed of the first two propositions in his message to Congress on Tuesday. He informed M. Viviani and the world that the United States can never become a member of the existing League of Nations, and he advised the passage of the Knox resolution without that famous section five, which was the only thing which made it palatable to the French. That section five would have put the United States on record as concerning itself with future European quarrels, which was exactly what France desired.

OBJECT PART FAILURE.

The third object of M. Viviani's mission—obtaining support in the reparations—has been a partial failure.

The ex-premier frankly wanted the Administration to come out and flatly endorse the reparations settled upon by the allied premiers, which would make Germany pay indemnities of approximately \$55,000,000,000 and a 12½ per cent tax on her exports.

A bird's eye-view of the P-B Suits

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